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Lawrence

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re application of |) |
| Tsutomu YASUDA et al. |) Atty. Docket No.: SHIMA0008 |
| Serial No. 09/348,629 |) |
| Filed: July 6, 1999 |) Group Art Unit: 3743 |
| For: HEATING APPARATUS AND |) |
| HEATING METHOD FOR |) Examiner: |
| SUPPLY OF GASEOUS FLUID |) Date: August 4, 2000 |

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 37201

AUG = 8 2000

RECEIVED

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

BOX: NO FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement with regard to the above-identified application. Copies of each of the documents listed in the attached Form 1449 are attached.

Also attached is a copy of the Search Report issued in the corresponding European application. Since all of the documents cited herein were cited in said Search Report, it is believed that the relevancy of the each document cited is clear from the Search Report. Additionally, it will be noted that all of the references were cited in said Search Report under Category A only, i.e., documents defining the general state of the art which are not considered to be particularly relevant.

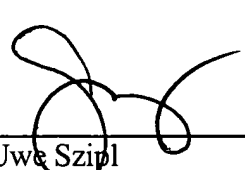
Accordingly, no further comment in regard to the disclosures of these documents is believed to be required.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited, and that a copy of the Form PTO-1449, initialed by the Examiner to indicate that the documents have been considered, be returned to the applicants.

It is believed that the present Information Disclosure Statement complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-8, but if a fee should be required, authorization is hereby given to deduct from deposit account No. 501281.

Respectfully submitted,

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